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Letter dated 6 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Ashgabat outcome document, adopted on 12 December 2015 as a final document of the high-level international conference on the theme "Policy of neutrality: international cooperation for peace, security and development", which was successfully held in Ashgabat on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan (see annex).

This conference was attended by an unprecedented number of Heads of State and Government, heads of international organizations, ministers for foreign affairs and high-ranking officials from countries representing different continents.

Initiated by permanently neutral Turkmenistan, as a country with a majority Muslim population, the conference contributed significantly to the peacebuilding efforts of the United Nations by offering tremendous opportunities to address the challenges and strengthen the conflict prevention and resolution tools of the Organization in turbulent regions.

Today, the international community has difficulty in keeping pace with the evolution of each conflict. We are finding it harder to end conflicts and to sustain peace. The outcome of the high-level international conference on the theme "Policy of neutrality: international cooperation for peace, security and development" is a valuable input to the international efforts in tackling pressing challenges to peace and security and ensuring a sustainable future for the next generations.

I would be very grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 6 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Outcome document of the high-level international conference on the theme "Policy of neutrality: international cooperation for peace, security and development" (Ashgabat outcome document)

Heads of State and Government, Speakers of Parliaments, Ministers and officials of United Nations Member States, and representatives of entities of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and academic institutions, reaffirming their commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, were assembled in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 12 December 2015, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the neutrality of Turkmenistan, at the high-level international conference on the theme "Policy of neutrality: international cooperation for peace, security and development" pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/285 of 3 June 2015, entitled "Permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan".

Participants of the international conference

1. *Recognized* the significance of United Nations General Assembly resolutions 50/80 A of 12 December 1995 and 69/285 of 3 June 2015, entitled "Permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan", for maintaining peace and security at the regional and global levels,

2. *Affirmed* the importance of continuing to uphold the principles of sovereignty and the sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity, self-determination and non-intervention in the internal affairs of any State, and to defend, promote and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security are not endangered,

3. *Stressed* the importance of enhancing dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations and maintaining a culture of peace, through supporting efforts made at the international level to reduce confrontation, suppress xenophobia and Islamophobia and promote respect for diversity,

4. *Underlined* that the policy of neutrality, being declared and pursued by the Member States of the United Nations, contributes to the strengthening of peace and security in relevant regions and at the global level and plays an important role in developing peaceful, friendly and mutually beneficial relations between the countries of the world,

5. *Recognized* that the policy of neutrality is closely interconnected with and based on the tools of preventive diplomacy, such as early warning and prevention of conflict, mediation, good offices, fact-finding missions, negotiation, the use of special envoys, informal consultations, peacebuilding and targeted development activities,

6. *Noted* that preventive diplomacy is a core function of the United Nations and is central to the role of the United Nations Secretary-General, and in this regard recognized the important role of the special political missions of the United Nations

and the good offices of the Secretary-General in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding,

7. *Underlined* in this regard that the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, established in Ashgabat in December 2007 with the support of the international community, plays an important role in assisting the Central Asian States in addressing regional challenges by encouraging and facilitating closer cooperation among them, identifying and tackling potential sources of tension before a possible escalation, and responding to domestic and transnational challenges and threats to peace and security by supporting the sustainable development of the region,

8. *Affirmed* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, which are integral elements of the policy of neutrality, and called for an increase in the equal participation, representation and full involvement of women in preventive diplomacy efforts and all related decision-making processes with regard to conflict resolution and peacebuilding,

9. *Stressed* that the policy of permanent neutrality is a key factor for providing conditions and building a platform for peaceful negotiations, and in this regard underlined the contribution of neutral Turkmenistan in the United Nations-led inter-Tajik talks through the initiative to host the continual round of the inter-Tajik talks in Ashgabat in 1995-1996, and in addressing the conflict in Afghanistan by hosting inter-Afghan talks and an international forum on Afghanistan in 1997 and continuing to offer the territory of Turkmenistan for further inclusive, Afghan-led dialogue on reconciliation,

10. *Recognized* the positive role that the countries with the status of neutrality play in the provision and delivery of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters, in accordance with the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, including the principle of neutrality,

11. *Stressed* that the fundamental elements of the policy of neutrality are in accordance with the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement, which are respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-interference in domestic affairs, equality and peaceful coexistence, and in this regard *noted* the support by the Non-Aligned Movement of the status of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan expressed in the final document of the Eleventh Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 1995,

12. *Emphasizing* that the phenomenon of the concept of neutrality needs to be developed, *welcomed* the initiative of Turkmenistan to establish the Centre for Studies and Research on the Neutrality Phenomenon in International Law and International Relations within existing capacities in order to study and disseminate the knowledge related to the policies of neutrality through training sessions and workshops delivered by experts and organizations specializing in relevant fields,

13. *Commending* the decision of the Government of Turkmenistan to declare 2015 the Year of Neutrality and Peace, *invited* Member and observer States of the United Nations, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to consider the proposal to proclaim an International Day of Neutrality and observe this day through education

and public awareness-raising activities to strengthen the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples,

14. *Underlining* that Turkmenistan regularly hosts the high-level international conferences on the policy of neutrality and *recognizing* that the dialogue on this theme contributes to the strengthening of global peace and security, *stressed* the need to continue convening such forums at least every five years,

15. *Expressed* deep appreciation and gratitude to the people and the Government of Turkmenistan for the excellent organization and hosting of the high-level international conference and the warm hospitality extended to the participants in the city of Ashgabat.

12 December 2015, Ashgabat